

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office action dated February 15, 2008, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 – 12, 14 – 18, and 20 – 22 were rejected. Additionally, claims 25, 27, and 29 were objected to. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, and 17 and canceled claims 25, 27, and 29. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below provided remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25, 27, and 29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 1, 12, and 17 to incorporate the limitations of claims 25, 27, and 29, respectively. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 25, claim 12 has amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 27, and claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 29. Because claims 1, 12, and 17 have been amended to include allowable subject matter, Applicant asserts that claims 1, 12, and 17 are in an allowable condition.

Dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11 depend from amended claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

Dependent Claims 14 – 16, 18, and 20 – 22

Claims 14 – 16 depend from amended claim 12 and claims 18 and 20 – 22 depend from amended claim 17. Applicant asserts that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claims 12 and 17.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the claim rejections and allow claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 – 12, 14 – 18, and 20 – 22. Should the Examiner have any questions, please call the undersigned at (925) 249-1300.

Respectfully submitted,

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